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First Curiosity, or The Knowledge of his owne Country, by Henry B[elasyse], 1657, April, reads:

"What nation can shew more refined witts then those of our Ben, our Shakespeare, our Baumont, our Fletcher, our Dunn, our Randol, our Crashaw, our Cleveland, our Sidney, our Bacon, etc."

In the volume *Mss. of the Earl of Egmont*,⁶ we find a letter of Robert Southwell, dated Rome, December 23, 1660,⁷ in which he speaks of someone telling him about the life and death of "your famous Cambridge wit, Crasshaw."

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BRIEF MENTION

Swift, Swiftly, and their Synonyms: A Contribution to Semantic Analysis and Theory, by Gustaf Stern (Göteborgs Högskolas Arsskrift 1921, III. Göteborg, Wettergren & Kerber. 295 pp.). The semantic study of the group of words indicated by the title is here reported in almost bewildering detail. The study of these words is restricted to the Old and Middle English periods, with the exclusion of French and Scandinavian loanwords; and the native words studied are those "denoting speed in relation to action," not "those denoting speed in relation to time only." In an introductory chapter are expounded the principles of semasiology and the methods to be employed in eliciting trustworthy results. Two branches of the science are to be distinguished, "one of them treating the meanings of words as objective thoughts, that is to say, with regard to their logical import; the other dealing with the psychic acts involved." It is the logical branch that has received the greater share of attention "because of its importance for lexicography and etymology"; the psychological branch has remained in the less developed and technical "borderland between philology and psychology."

Three-fourths of the book (pp. 17-201) are embraced in the second chapter, entitled "Sense-development of the Individual Words." A grouping of the words studied determines the subdivisions of the chapter, as follows: "Group I. Words in which the sense of speed is primary." Here are treated OE. *hræd*, *hrædlic* *hrædlice*; (*h*)*rape*; *swift*, *swifte*, *swiftlice*; *snel*, *snelle*; *leoht*, *leohtlic*, *leohtlice*. "Group II. Words originally signifying 'strong.'" These are OE. *fæste*, adv., *fæst*, adj., *fæstlice*, adj.

⁶ *Hist. Mss. Comm.*, vol. 53, Earl of Egmont, vol. I, part II, London, 1905, p. 616.

⁷ This letter is cited for another purpose in *N. & Q.* XI, II, 205.

(taken in this order); *swiþe* adv., *swiþ*, adj. "Group III. Words originally signifying 'sharp.'" These are OE. *scearp*, adj., *scearplice*, adv.; ME. *smart*, adj., *smartly*, adv., *smart*, adv.; OE. *hwæt*, *hwætlice*, ME. *hwæte*, adv. "Group IV. Words originally signifying 'living.'" Here are OE. *cwic*, adj., ME. *quickly*, adv., *quick*, adv.; OE. *liflic*, adj., ME. *lively*, adv. "Group V. Words originally signifying 'eagerly.'" Only one word, OE. *georne*, adv., is found here. It is observed that *georn*, *-lice*, *-ful*, and *-fullice* "did not acquire the sense of speed." "Group VI. Words originally signifying 'clever.'" These are OE. *geap*, adj., *geaplice*, adv.; ME. *spack*, adj. (a Scand. loanword), *spackly*, adv. "Group VII. Words originally signifying 'ready.'" These are OE. *gearu*, adj., *gearwe*, adv.; OE. *geræde*, ME. *redi*, adj., *redily*, adv.

The foregoing indication of the contents of this extended chapter must awaken interest in the method of investigation and the analysis of meanings to which each word is subjected. A basis for the minute classification of the meanings of a word is deduced from OE. and ME. citations, which are so ample as to acquire a recognizable value in the interpretation of texts. That all these citations have been placed in the indisputably right division of meanings cannot be expected, but at no point does one get the impression that Dr. Stern has at times relied on a hasty judgment. As to the 'exhibits' in this chapter, the description of the 'groups' indicates that the usage of each word is traced from its assumed basic meaning (for example, *gearu* is defined as at first signifying passively "a state of readiness or completion") thru a course of changes or modifications until it comes to mean 'promptly,' 'soon,' some aspect of 'speed,' synonymous with 'swift.'

The logic of sense-development is then considered in the following chapter, in an attempt to deduce, from "a comparison of similar developments in different words," the logical principles underlying all the sense-changes recorded. No summary of this chapter shall be attempted, but it is to be observed that the adverbs are an especially effective category in acquiring new meanings and in turning them back upon the adjectives. A result is also reached, which, it is declared, "may perhaps be applied to other groups of words as well"; it is this "that, though many words of *originally* widely different significations acquire the sense of rapidity, they do not do so till after having acquired a meaning which is essentially similar in all of them. From this meaning they all pass through a development of similar nature, resulting in the sense of rapidity."

The two concluding chapters are devoted to the psychological aspect of sense-change and the classification of sense-changes. The topics first discussed are (1) Definition of meaning; (2) Psychic constituents of meaning; (3) Relation between thought and speech, for the speaker; (4) Relation between thought and speech, for the

hearer; (5) Relation between thought as producing speech, and thought as produced by the same speech. "Considering the fact that most words have many significations, the identity of the speaker's thoughts with the thoughts actually called up by his words in the hearer's mind is by no means a matter of course. In fact, this identity is probably never absolute." (6) Fluctuation of meaning; (7) Oscillation of meaning. In the expression 'he went quickly out of the room,' "we may assume the meaning of the adverb to oscillate between 'rapidly' and 'immediately.'" (8) The process of change. From the foregoing definitions of meaning and of sentence it is now affirmed "that a sense-change implies (for a person speaking, or writing) that a word is associated with a partial conception not identical with those with which it has previously been associated. If the association between the word and the new conception grows habitual, we say that the word has acquired a new shade of sense." (9) 'Irregular' factors of sense-change. Here cultural factors are observed as "in translations and in works of an ecclesiastical or religious character, which are often dependent on Latin sources" (p. 246). Thus, *leoht slæp*, in Bede, renders *levis somnus* (p. 52). (10) Vagueness of images (conceptions). The behaviorist might notice this expression: "Whatever opinion one may have of the theory that thought is possible without images, one thing is universally admitted: that the mental state corresponding to a word (*i. e.* the conceptions which constitute its meaning) is often extremely indistinct. . . . We pay just enough attention to it to enable us to apprehend what it represents, and its connexion with the total meaning, and then pass on to the next word of the sentence" (James and Erdmann are referred to). (11) Association with synonyms; (12) Set phrases. Influence of change in governing words; (13) "Finally, . . . conservative influences, that to a certain extent counterbalance the forces which favour sense-changes."

In the final "Psychological classification of sense-changes," the entire collection of material is re-considered under three headings: (A) Cumulative sense-change (29 sub-divisions); (B) Sense-transfers: (1) Transfer from one material object or action to another; (2) Transfer of a quality from a material object to a living being, its faculties, mood, character, etc.; (3) Synaesthesia. Notice Oertel, p. 327 f.: "The phenomenon of synaesthesia has received rather full treatment at the hand of psychologists, but its reflection in language has not yet received adequate treatment by lexicographers." Dr. Stern, p. 131, has this and other references. (4) Transfer of a quality from material to immaterial objects or actions; (5) Figurative senses. (B) Sense-loans: (1) from foreign sources; (2) from cognate English words.

A first reading of this treatise has resulted in the conviction that a restatement of the table of its contents will serve to bring it to the notice of the competent reader in a better way than would have been done by a discussion of some selected details. What is thus shown, it will be acknowledged, is that the author has with fine discernment chosen a group of words to serve as a basis for a study in semantics. It will also be inferred that there is considerable excess in the elaboration of minute analyses and sub-classifications. This is to the credit of the author's conscientious sense of thoroughness, but it also betrays an incomplete control of the processes of valid combination and generalization. The long lists of "works quoted" and "texts read," with the evidence thruout the treatise that these sources have been well scrutinized, confirm the judgment that Dr. Stern has made a worthy and substantial contribution to this class of investigations.

At some points, clearly set forth, Dr. Stern finds it impossible to accept without modification the semantic principles deduced by previous investigators, and he admits that the material he has brought together is not adequate for altogether clearing up these principles. He concludes that "no satisfactory system of psychological classification has been established, nor is there any general consensus of opinion regarding the fundamental principles of such a system. . . . Much additional research is necessary before it will be possible to gain a comprehensive view of the whole field of semasiology."

As a proof at once of the instructiveness and of the general neglect of this subject, one may safely assume that few speakers or writers have ever thought of how the *underscored* words in 'I should *rather* (or *sooner*) do this *than* that' have come to have the meaning shown in that sentence.

J. W. B.

Philological Quarterly. A Journal devoted to Scholarly Investigation in the Classical and Modern Languages and Literatures. Vol. 1, no. 1, January 1922 (Published at the University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa). The editors of *Mod. Lang. Notes* extend the heartiest welcome to this new periodical. Under the competent editorial management of Professor Hardin Craig, its scholarly character is abundantly assured; and the coöperation of the chosen associate editors, Professors Charles Bundy Wilson, B. L. Ullman, Thomas A. Knott, and Charles E. Young, strongly ratify that assurance. The uniting of Classical with Modern Language studies has a fresh significance at this time. This will enable the new periodical to assume the attractive and no less important

function of expounding and contributing to the illumination of one of the principal chapters in present-day educational and cultural problems.

J. W. B.

It is rather remarkable that the complete correspondence between Swift and Hester Van Homrigh should not have been published till the present year when Mr. A. Martin Freeman edited it from the original manuscripts in the British Museum under the title, *Vanessa and Her Correspondence with Jonathan Swift* (Houghton Mifflin Company). Most of these letters had appeared consecutively for the first time in the Scott edition in 1814. Now by Mr. Freeman's careful study of the originals and especially through his discovery of the endorsements in Vanessa's handwriting a more accurate arrangement of the letters has been arrived at and some idea of those known to be missing can be determined. There is still a good deal left to conjecture in the matter of dates and allusions, but the best use has been made of the materials to hand. Two letters appear now for the first time besides a little note and a postscript. Vanessa endorsed each letter with a number to indicate its place in a chronological order and the collection was divided into seven groups, though what the significance of these groups may be is not clear. Included in the volume are *Cadenus and Vanessa* and other poems and documents as well as some letters in the MSS. volume that have nothing to do with Vanessa.

Probably the opinion of the world will not be altered by the new review of this celebrated case which Mr. Freeman makes in the light of the originals. The story of the final meeting between the two is dismissed with justice into the limbo of painful and malicious gossip. We see Swift floundering along "with a blindness which only our knowledge of his intense sincerity enables us to credit" in a vain effort to cure of her infatuation a woman for whom he had no cure that he felt he could offer; we have more pity than indignation for him and the deepest sorrow for her. They were both caught in a net and neither could escape till death cut the knots. Mr. Freeman's presentation of the case is both wise and just.

J. W. T.

Father Tabb, His Life and Work: A Memorial. By His Niece, Jennie Masters Tabb. Introduction by Dr. Charles Alphonso Smith (Boston, The Stratford Co., 1921). Miss Tabb's book is an acceptable contribution to American literary biography, principally because it deals with a poet about whom not much is known. It contains the most detailed account at present accessible of the life of the poet-priest, and in this respect is superior to M. S. Pine's book (*John Bannister Tabb, The Priest-Poet*,

Georgetown Visitation Convent, Washington, D. C., 1915), now out of print. Altho Miss Tabb has given more personal information about her uncle than M. S. Pine, she has been almost wholly dependent for her material on friends of the poet, such as Mr. Turnbull, of Baltimore, and Fathers Magri, Perrig, and Connor. Nor has she attempted any literary criticism, being satisfied to reproduce from various unnamed periodicals the opinions of unknown reviewers. However, she has quoted extensively from his published work, to the extent of at least sixty pages. The effect of reading thru all these quotations is the impression that the book is merely a compilation of valuable material that has not been well used.

Like M. S. Pine, Miss Tabb has had to face the problem of writing the life of a man whom she did not know intimately. Her book, therefore, also fails to give either an accurate or a complete account of the poet's life, and repeats many errors. As I have carefully investigated the many misstatements and incorrect dates that have been accepted without question by those who have written about Father Tabb, I shall note a few of the inaccuracies found in the two writers, without at present correcting them or proving my statements.

(1) Both M. S. Pine and Miss Tabb use the spelling Bannister; Banister is correct.

(2) The only date besides 1870 given by Miss Tabb between the year of the poet's release from Point Lookout and that of his ordination is 1874 (p. 25). But he did not enter St. Charles' College in that year. M. S. Pine makes the same mistake (p. 27).

(3) Both M. S. Pine (p. 45) and Miss Tabb (p. 36) state that his first volume of poems was published in 1884. (*The Camb. Hist. Am. Lit.*, Vol. II, p. 604 gives the date 1883.) Neither date is correct.

(4) Miss Tabb (p. 96), following W. Hand Browne (*Library of Southern Literature*, Vol. XII, p. 5176), includes *Dusk* as an unpublished piece among a small collection of poems first printed by Browne. This particular poem, however, had been published in the unique volume called *Two Lyrics* in 1900. Moreover, this volume is unknown, apparently, to both writers.

(5) The longest poem that Father Tabb ever wrote, *The Ruin*, the loss of which Miss Tabb, quoting Father Perrig (p. 79) laments, has been preserved in a valuable collection containing about seventy-five unpublished manuscripts which I was fortunate enough to discover recently in Baltimore.

I may add that it is my intention to publish within a year a *Critical Study of the Life and Works of Father Tabb, with a Collection of Unpublished Poems.*

F. A. L.